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SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

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TREASURY FOR ZARATE AND OFAC (NEWCOMB)
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SUBJECT: TERRORIST FINANCE: DUTCH THINKING ON PROPOSED
SEPTEMBER SEMINARS

REF: A) THE HAGUE 1741 B) BRUSSELS 2975

1. (SBU) SUMMARY AND COMMENT. The Dutch continue to move forward on plans for a September 22 EU terrorist financing seminar in Brussels, a priority of their EU Presidency. However, they are also eager to hear USG thoughts on ideas for a proposed September 23 U.S.-EU meeting/seminar on terrorist financing within the overall concept of ensuring a regular transatlantic dialogue on this issue. While plans for a related EU-GCC seminar have been postponed, the Dutch remain committed to finding an acceptable venue and time before the end of their Presidency. END SUMMARY AND COMMENT.

SEPTEMBER 22 EU TF SEMINAR

2. (SBU) During a July 23 meeting with Econoff, Wouter Jurgens, Senior Policy Advisor in the MFA's Political Affairs Department, outlined GONL thinking thus far on a possible agenda and topics for the Dutch-proposed September 22 terrorist financing seminar in Brussels, reported refs A and B. Jurgens participated in meetings on terrorist financing during EB A/S Wayne's July 7 visit to The Hague (ref A). Although planning was still at an early stage, Jurgens said, the MFA envisioned a seminar focusing on practical, legal and institutional challenges in the fight against terrorist financing, while also taking stock of accomplishments in the three years following 9/11 and the adoption of UNSCR 1373. The seminar "Three Years after 9/11: A Scorecard" would examine cooperation among international organizations (including the UN and EU), EU member states, and institutions within member states. The seminar would seek to identify ways to improve existing asset freezing regimes, to increase cooperation among international actors, and to improve implementation. Best practices developed and/or identified during the seminar would be shared with relevant EU bodies and used in discussions with international organizations to make the fight against terrorist financing more effective and efficient.

3. (SBU) The seminar, as Jurgens explained, would include a morning plenary session with keynote speakers introducing different aspects of the issue, followed by three afternoon workshops on specific topics. The MFA is considering the following agenda:

Morning Session (plenary)

-- Introduction by Gijs de Vries, EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator.

-- Ambassador Javier Ruperez, Head of the UN's Counter-Terrorism Committee's (CTC) Executive Directorate. Possible topics: current and future role of asset freezing as a tool in the fight against terrorist financing; reinforcement of the UN's role in the freezing of non-al Qaida terrorists; and preventive freezing of assets of non-state actors, including the required burden of proof issue.

-- Susan Eckert, Senior Research Fellow, Watson Institute, Brown University (former Commerce A/S). Possible topics: a comparative approach and lessons learned from relevant UN mechanisms and instruments as well as cooperation between the UN and other international institutions.

-- Arthur Docters van Leeuwen, Committee for European Securities Regulators (CESR) Chairman and Director of the Netherlands Financial Markets Regulatory Body (former head of the Netherlands Intelligence and Security Service, former Prosecutor General in the Netherlands Justice Ministry). Possible topics: linkages between Justice departments, public prosecutors' offices, intelligence services, and financial regulators in the fight against terrorism as well as possible synergies and existing problems.

-- Francois Fort, Financial Action Task Force (FATF)

Chairman.

Possible topics: role of FATF in the fight against terrorism; lessons learned; and the way forward.

Afternoon session (workshops)

-- National implementation, including best practices of cooperation between law enforcement agencies, the financial sector, and intelligence services.

-- Development of legal frameworks in combating terrorist financing.

-- Informal remittance systems (Hawalas, etc.)

14. (SBU) On participation, Jurgens said the MFA hoped to attract enough high-level participants to give the seminar some clout, while also including working level experts to ensure that ideas emerging from the seminar are translated into concrete and practical steps. The MFA is following up with De Vries, who reportedly is very interested in participating as a keynote speaker. The other proposed speakers are intended to give the seminar a EU focus in order to win over less supportive member states (i.e., France and Germany.) Other participants would include policy makers and financial and legal experts from EU member states and EU institutions (EU Council Secretariat and the EU Commission), relevant partner countries (U.S., Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Canada), UN bodies (CTC, CTAD, TPB, UNSCR 1267 Monitoring Group), and other appropriate international organizations. A maximum of 200 participants is envisaged.

September 23 U.S.-EU TF SEMINAR

15. (SBU) Jurgens said the MFA was very receptive to A/S Wayne's proposal for a U.S.-EU terrorist financing meeting/seminar on the margins of the EU seminar in September (ref A). The MFA, in close coordination with the Finance Ministry, would take the lead on the Dutch side in organizing such a meeting. Jurgens suggested that a format reflecting the EU seminar the day before might be most effective, with keynote speakers in the morning and workshops in the afternoon. He thought a troika format (Netherlands, Commission, Luxembourg) would work best, with experts and representatives at the Director General level from the three EU pillars participating in the workshops. The agenda could track with terrorist financing elements in the U.S.-EU Declaration on Combating Terrorism. The seminar's main objective should be to share best practices and set concrete goals for possible follow up at the December U.S.-EU Ministerial. He agreed that such a meeting could set a precedent for regular exchanges between U.S. and EU participants on fighting terrorist financing. Jurgens said the MFA was eager to hear back from the USG on our thoughts for the proposed September meeting/seminar.

EU-GCC TF SEMINAR POSTPONED

16. (SBU) When asked, Jurgens noted that a planned EU-GCC seminar (a proposed three-year review of asset freezing efforts) had been postponed indefinitely. While there was still support for the proposed agenda (Hawalas, cash couriers, and charities), Jurgens said that some GCC members had objected to the idea of coming to Brussels to "be lectured" on terrorist financing issues. The MFA was now working with the GCC Secretariat to explore other options, including the hosting of such a seminar in a GCC country. The GONL remained committed, he added, to holding such a seminar during the Dutch EU Presidency.

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